

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
BALTIMORE
MARYLAND

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

DEC 31 A 9:48

LAUGHLIN PRODUCTS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

BOB JOHNSON and DOLLY MCSHAIN,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 02-CV-3605 L

Judge Benson E. Legg

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**CONSENT ORDER STAYING ACTION AND
EXTENDING TIME TO RESPOND TO COMPLAINT**

This matter having come before the Court upon the stipulation and consent of the parties as indicated below:

WHEREAS, Laughlin Products, Inc. ("LPI") has filed sixteen identical suits in nine (9) United States District Courts against salons owned and operated by Hollywood Tanning Systems, Inc. ("HTS") and by HTS franchisees (the "Laughlin suits"), including *Laughlin Products v. Bergey*, et al, Civil Action No. 02-CV-2128 (D.Md., filed June 25, 2002) (the "Maryland Suit"). The Laughlin suits each allege that HTS and its named franchisees have infringed U.S. Patent No. 5,922,333 ("the '333 Patent");

WHEREAS, HTS has also filed a declaratory judgment action in the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey seeking, among other things, a declaration of non-infringement and invalidity (the "HTS suit");

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2002, HTS and its named franchisees filed a motion to transfer the Laughlin suits and the HTS suit (collectively, the "District Court cases") to the Judicial Panel on Multi-district Litigation (the "MDL Panel") for centralized pretrial discovery and management.

WHEREAS, the MDL Panel heard oral argument on the application on November 21, 2002 and has yet to rule on the transfer application;

WHEREAS, a Consent Order Staying Action and Extending Time to Respond to Complaint was entered in the Maryland Suit on September 4, 2002, staying that proceeding pending a decision from the MDL Panel on the transfer application, and extending the time for Defendants to answer, move, or otherwise respond to the Complaint to 20 days following Defendants' counsel's receipt of a decision by the MDL Panel on the transfer application; and

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereupon **ORDERED** and **ADJUDGED** that:

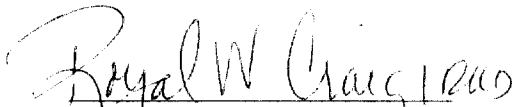
1. this proceeding is stayed pending a decision from the MDL Panel on the transfer application;
2. the time for Defendants to answer, move, or otherwise respond to the Complaint be, and the same hereby is, extended to 20 days following Defendants' counsel's receipt of a decision by the MDL Panel on the transfer application.

SO ORDERED, THIS ^{6TH} ____ DAY OF

January, 200³~~2~~:

Benson E. Legg
United States District Judge Benson E. Legg
District of Maryland

The undersigned attorneys consent to the form and entry of the within order:

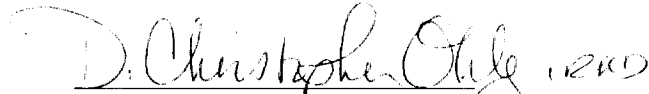


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Dated: December 31, 2002



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